

Picturesque Niagara

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Walter Taylor

Picturesque NIAGARA.



ISSUED BY
THE BOARD OF TRADE,
NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA.



An Illustrated Description of the Natural Beauties of the
FALLS OF NIAGARA

With a brief reference to their utilization from an industrial point of view

Published by the Board of Trade of Niagara Falls, Ontario

1591?

THE VILLAGE OF QUEENSTON is one of the oldest settlements in what was formerly known as Upper Canada, being at the foot of the Old Indian Portage around the Falls, from the village of Chippawa, a few miles above the Cataract. In early days Queenston was a flourishing commercial centre, but since the construction of railways and canals the place is no longer prosperous. It is, however, still interesting for its picturesque situation and as the scene of one of the chief battles of the war of 1812-15, when the British leader, Lieut.-General Sir Isaac Brock, was killed at the moment of victory. A handsome monument 190 feet high on the brow of "Queenston Heights" was erected in 1853 in honor of General Brock and to commemorate the event.

Below the escarpment, the exact spot where General Brock fell in action is marked by a cenotaph erected in 1860 by the Prince of Wales. On the Heights, in rear of the monument, in evidence of the war, still remain in a fair state of preservation, two earthworks, constructed during that period by the Royal Engineers, under Lieut. Jenoway, but evacuated and partially blown up on the approach of a large American force in July, 1814.



VILLAGE OF QUEENSTON, FROM BROCK'S MONUMENT.

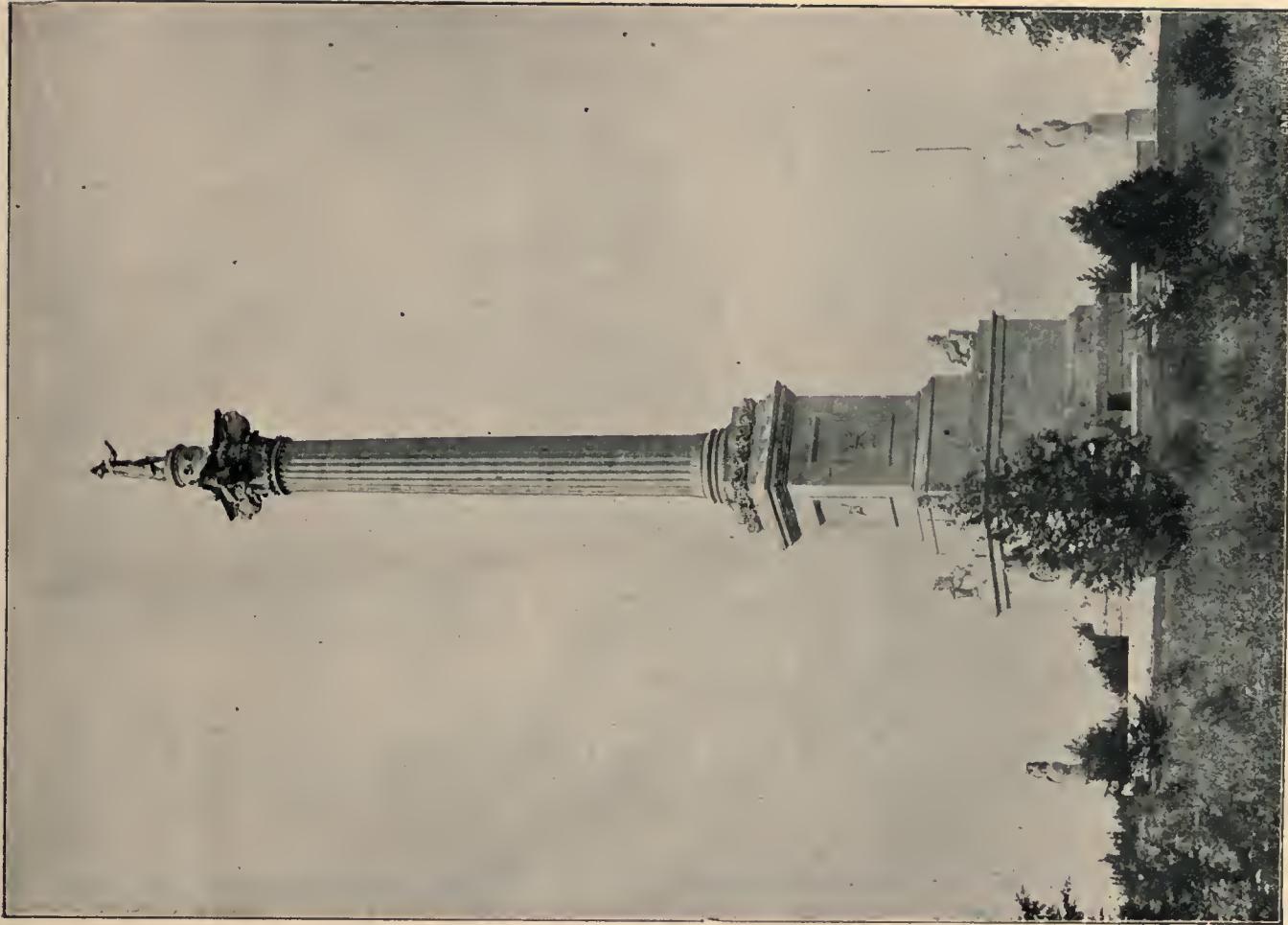
BROCK'S MONUMENT rests upon a substantial foundation of masonry, forty feet square and ten feet below the level of the ground; upon this foundation there is a two-story vaulted basement measuring thirty-eight feet square at the ground level, and attaining a height of twenty-seven feet.

Upon the four corners of the entablature of this basement are the armorial bearings of Brock carved out of stone. The massive basement is surrounded by an enriched pedestal, the die of which is sixteen feet square, and the height, including the cornice and base, thirty-eight feet.

On the pedestal stands the exquisitely proportioned mammoth column of the composite order, measuring ninety-five feet in total height, with a fluted shaft ten feet in diameter, and enriched capital and base. Above the column, and resting on a cippas or statue base, is a colossal statue of General Brock in military costume, and the right arm extended with a baton in the hand, and the left hand resting upon his sword. The total height from ground level to the top of the statue is 190 feet.

From the ground level a circular stone staircase winds up through the centre of the shaft to the top of the column, where from small openings in the cippas a view may be had of the surrounding landscape at a height of over 500 feet above the level of the river.

BROCK'S MONUMENT.



BELOW the Whirlpool is a most interesting feature of the lower river, known as "Ningara Glen," sheltered by the high cliffs on either side. This picturesque spot possesses a splendid variety of flora, and has in consequence a reputation among botanists. The glen is reached by an easy stairway down the cliff, at the base of which a pathway winds down through a wildly beautiful glen to the edge of the river, where sweeps the mighty rapids of the lower Niagara.

On the opposite side of the stream, lower down, is a rugged irregularity in the cliff, known as the "Devil's Hole." At this spot a detachment of British troops, marching from Fort Niagara to Fort Schlosser, above the Falls, in pre-secession days, were attacked by Indians in ambush and driven over the cliff. Only one, a drummer boy, survived to tell the fate of his companions in arms.

It may be stated that Prof. Macoun, the Dominion Botanist, is authority for the statement that Queenston Heights, the valley of the Niagara River and the neighborhood of the Falls, form the best botanical ground in Canada. So far there have been found in this field 107 families, comprising 437 genera and 1,101 distinct species growing without cultivation.



WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS LOOKING UP THE RIVER.

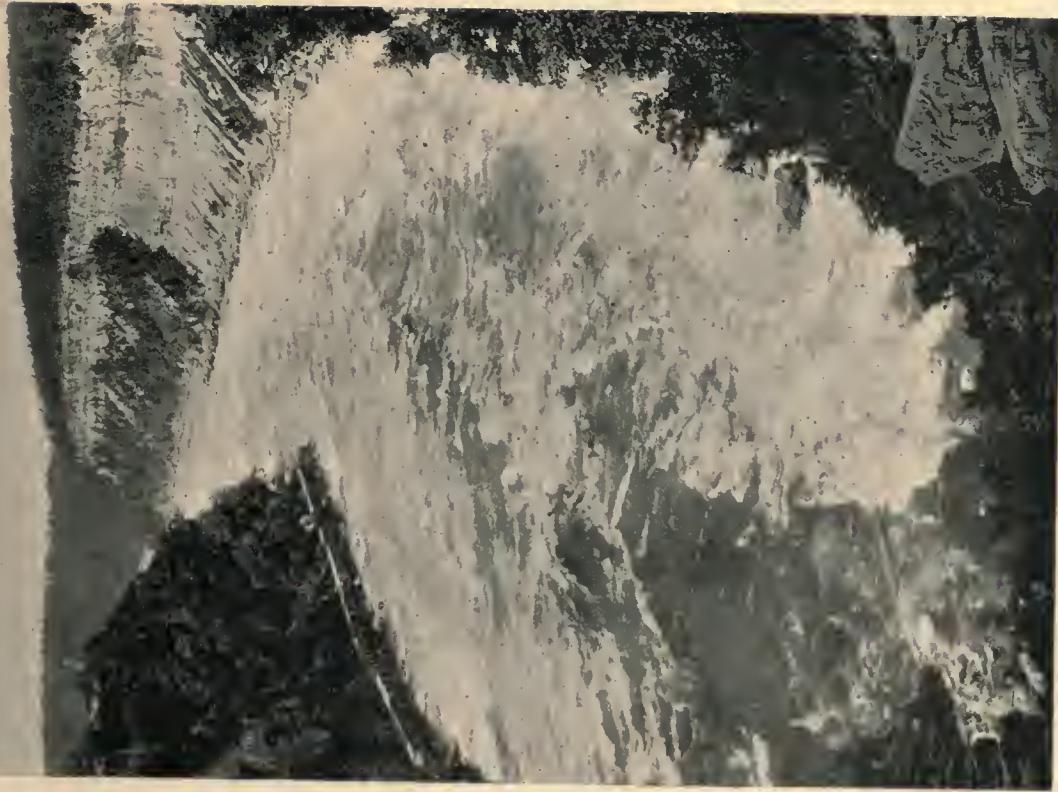
THIE WHIRLPOOL is formed by an abrupt change in the course of the river, the channel being deflected at right angles. The river compressed by the encroaching cliffs into the famous rapids above the pool rushes into the basin on the right side. The current then turns to the left and up stream until it reaches the entrance to the basin where it passes under the in-rushing torrent and on towards the escarpment. It has been thought by many geologists that the river originally pursued a southward course on the line of the river and there are many evidences of the existence of an old channel.

Mr. Frederick Law Olmsted quotes the words of William Robinson, F.L.S., as follows :

"The noblest of nature's gardens that I have yet seen is that of the surroundings and neighborhood of the Falls of Niagara ; grand as are the colossal Falls, the Rapids and the course of the river for a considerable distance above and below possess more interest and beauty.

"As the river courses far below the Falls, confined between vast walls of rock, the clear water of a peculiar greenish hue, and white here and there with circlets of yet unsoothed foam, the effect is startlingly beautiful, quite apart from the Falls. The high cliffs are crested with woods, the ruins of the great rock walls forming wide, irregular banks between them and the water, and also beautifully clothed with wood to the river's edge, often so far below that you sometimes look from the upper brink down on the top of tall pines that seem diminished in size. The wild vines scramble among the trees ; many shrubs and flowers seam the high rocks ; in moist spots here and there a sharp eye may detect many flowered tufts of the beautiful fringed gentian, strange to European eyes ; and beyond that, and at the upper end of the wood-embowered deep river bed, a portion of the crowning glory of the scene—the Falls—a vast cliff of illuminated foam with a zone towards its upper edge as of green molten glass."

WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS FROM RAILWAY STEEL ARCH BRIDGE.



AT the Whirlpool Rapids the descent to the water is made down an incline railway and the grandeur of the view there obtained is scarcely to be surpassed, except by the Falls themselves. It was here that the famous swimmer Webb, who swam from Dover to Calais, lost his life in attempting to swim through the Rapids. A short distance up stream is the new steel arch bridge lately built for the Grand Trunk Railway. This bridge, built upon the parabolic principle, took the place of the old Railway Suspension Bridge.

The old bridge was supported by four cables, each of 3640 No. 10 wires laid parallel and of an average strength of 1648 lbs. These wires when removed were found as efficient in every particular as when first placed in position over forty years previously. The present bridge was built and the old bridge removed without interrupting traffic. The total span over the gorge is 825 feet, and the height from rail to water 258 feet. The live load per running foot which can be safely supported is 10,000 lbs.

Just above the new steel arch bridge is situated the Cantilever Bridge, owned by the Michigan Central Railway. This bridge is one of the first of its kind constructed and was completed in 1883. The total length is 910 feet and the distance between rail and water 245 feet. A mile further up stream, near the Falls, is the carriage Suspension Bridge, with a span of 1268 feet, built in 1869 of wood, rebuilt in 1889 of steel, and enlarged and rebuilt as a steel arch bridge in 1898.



GRAND TRUNK SINGLE ARCH, DOUBLE TRACK STEEL BRIDGE OVER NIAGARA RIVER.

QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK is a national park belonging to the Province of Ontario. Preliminary work in connection with its establishment was undertaken in pursuance of an Act passed by the Legislature 30th March, 1885, and the park was formally opened to the public on the 24th May, 1888. It comprises the lands adjoining the Falls, some 154 acres, and the foreshore along nearly the whole course of the Ningara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, including the commanding "Queenston Heights," and the beautiful "Niagara Glen," the total area being over 700 acres. The property is administered by a Commission for the Government of Ontario, and in the ten years which have elapsed since work was begun, a great deal has been accomplished in restoring the surroundings of the Falls to a becoming condition. The lands adjoining the Falls on the American side of the river, embracing the Islands and a portion of the shore for a mile up stream, are similarly held by the State of New York. The idea of maintaining the surroundings of this magnificent natural wonder in a state of nature at the public expense originated with Lord Dufferin, while Governor-General of Canada.



AMERICAN FALLS, FROM QUEEN VICTORIA NIAGARA FALLS PARK.

THE PARKS of both sides of the river abound with beautiful drives and walks, and all buildings not required for the use of the sightseer or park administration have been removed. The only satisfactory general views of either the American, or the Canadian or Horseshoe Falls, is obtained from the Canadian Park. The American Fall is 1,060 feet wide. This Fall is separated from the Canadian or Horseshoe Fall by Goat Island. The main body of water passes over the Canadian Fall and the boundary line between Canada and the United States is situated near the Terrapin Point, the south-western extremity of Goat Island, leaving almost the whole of this Fall in Canadian territory. The Horseshoe Fall is 160 feet high, and the American Fall considerably less, as its base is obstructed by masses of fallen rock.

The total average quantity of water passing over the Falls is about 15 millions of cubic feet per minute —of this total about one-tenth is supposed to pass over the American Fall and nine-tenths over the Canadian Fall.

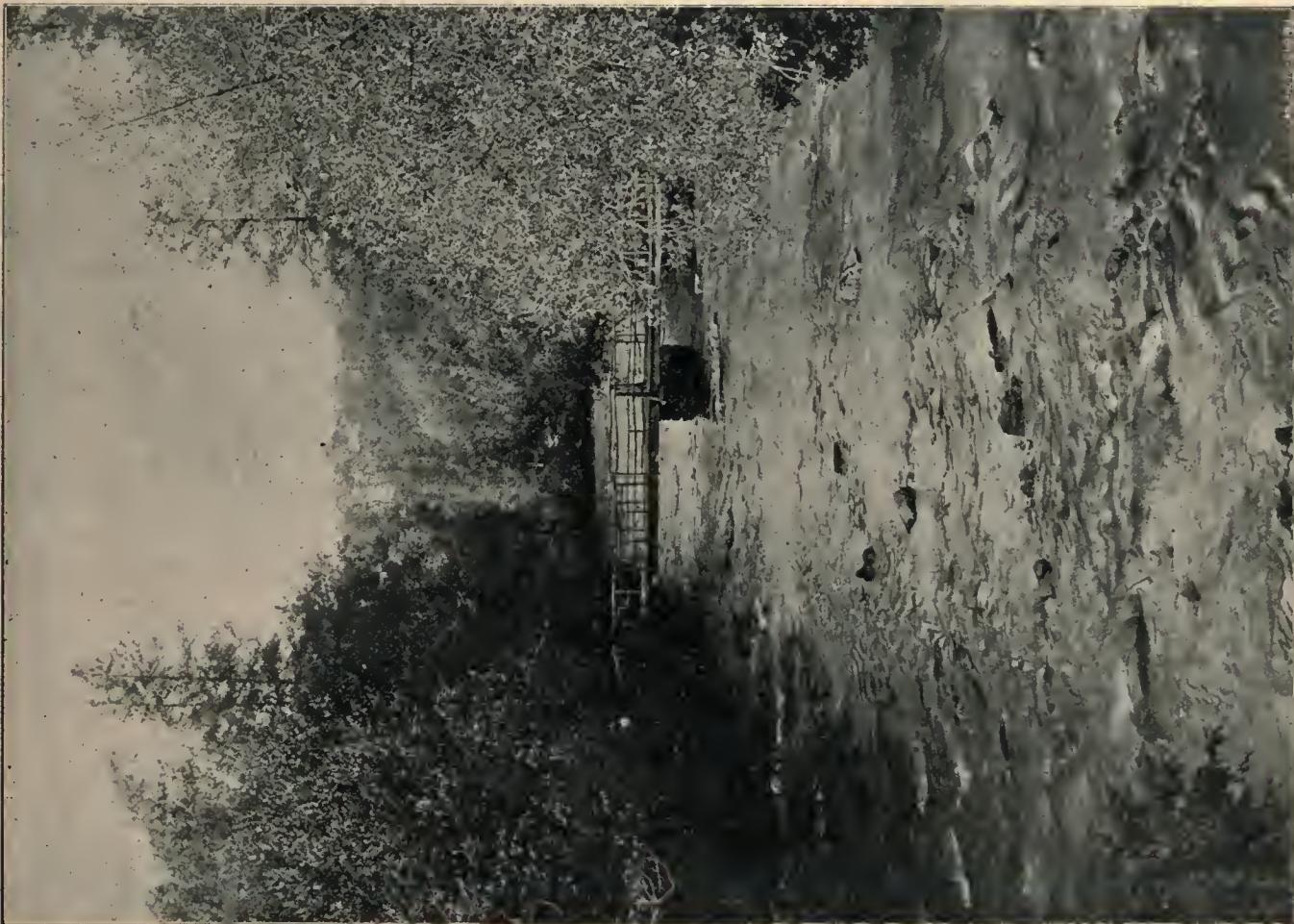
The crest line formerly took the form of a perfect horseshoe, but the wearing away of the cliff in the centre where the water is deepest has altered somewhat the general appearance of late years. The length of crest line is 3010 feet. The mean recession of the American Fall between the years 1842 and 1890 has been ascertained to be $7\frac{2}{3}$ inches annually ; that of the Horseshoe Fall over 2 feet 2 inches ; the maximum recession of the Horseshoe Fall during that period has been 5 feet per year.

UNDER TABLE ROCK.



THE CANADIAN NIAGARA POWER COMPANY, which holds a Charter from the Provincial Parliament for the development of electrical power within the Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park, to be distributed without the Park, is now ready to supply to users of power within the radius of four miles from the Railway Power House in the Park, one thousand (1,000) electrical horse power in the form of alternating current, and two hundred and fifty (250) electrical horse power in the form of direct current. This temporary supply is furnished under an agreement between the Power Company, the Park & River Railway Company, and the Commissioners of the Park, and is intended to meet local demands until the first section of the Power Company's works within the Park is completed. The first section of the development proposed within the Park will be an installation including water connections for twenty-five thousand (25,000) horse power, and (10,000) electrical horse power ready for delivery and transmission. This first section will be capable of extension by succeeding sections until at least one hundred thousand (100,000) horse power in the form of electrical energy can be developed within the Park for use without its limits. The plans are similar to those adopted by the Niagara Falls Power Company upon the American side, and the Canadian Niagara Power Company will have the benefit of the experience of the American Company in the use of the large units required for economical development of power under conditions existing. This Company pays the Government of Ontario an annual rental of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the privileges conferred by the Charter, while no charge is made to the American Power Companies by the State or Federal Government for the rights which they enjoy in taking water on the American side. Applications for power made to the Canadian Niagara Power Company at its office in Niagara Falls, Ontario, will receive prompt attention.

THE DUFFERIN ISLANDS



Following is a list of users of power supplied by the Niagara Falls Power Co., Niagara Falls, N. Y., May 1, 1898:

HYDRAULIC POWER.

	H. P.
Niagara Falls Paper Co.,	7,200

ELECTRICAL POWER.

Pittsburg Reduction Co. (aluminum)	3,050
The Carborundum Co. (carborundum)	1,000
Union Carbide Co. (calcium carbide)	1,075
B. & N. F. Electric Light & Power Co. (local lighting)	500
Niagara Electro-Chemical Co. (peroxide of sodium)	400
Oldbury Chemical Co.,	600
B. & N. F. Electric Railway (local railway)	250
N. F. & S. B. Railway Co. (local railway)	250
Buffalo Street Railway Co. (26 miles transmission)	2,000
Mathieson Alkali Works (soda ash)	2,000
Buffalo General Electric Co. (lighting, from October 1st, 1898)	3,000

SUMMARY.

Total hydraulic power sold—Niagara	7,200
Total electric power sold—Niagara	13,025
Total electric Power sold—Buffalo	5,000
	<hr/> 25,225

The plant of the Niagara Power Company is situated about a mile above the Falls, and is reached by electric street cars.



THE DUFFERIN ISLANDS, FROM PROSPECT DRIVE.

THE TOWN OF NIAGARA FALLS, CANADA, extends from the Whirlpool to the Horseshoe Fall, and is an example of one of the most thrifty and enterprising towns in the Province.

It owes much to its railway interests, as it is the terminal Canadian point on the Niagara Frontier for three great railway systems—the Grand Trunk, the Canadian Pacific and the Michigan Central Companies. It is one of the chief Canadian ports of entry for goods coming in from the United States, and the traffic on these railroads is enormous.

Of late years the town has had a rapid growth, due to the encouragement given to manufactories and commercial enterprises. The development of manufacturing interests by means of water power has been the object which has attracted the eyes of the manufacturing world to this locality, and the facilities afforded by the Canadian side are quickly recognized. Work in actual construction of additional power plants has given a fresh impetus to the already bright prospects of the town.

With the 150,000 horse power to be eventually developed by the Canadian Niagara Falls Power Co., for which franchise the company pays the Ontario Government \$25,000 per year; the Canadian Power Co., with a charter to take water from the Welland River, which will enable the company to develop unlimited power; and with a fall of 48 to 50 feet in the river between the Bridge and the Whirlpool, which can be cheaply developed, it would seem that at a very early date the town will become one of the largest manufacturing cities in the country.

The town is attracting the eye of manufacturers the world over, and is so situated as regards power and shipping facilities that it is the most favored spot in Canada for the location of industries, and will no doubt in the future, with the adjoining territory on the American side, become the industrial centre of the World.



UPPER NEW STEEL ARCH BRIDGE.

Length of arch span, 840 feet [longest in the world]; total length of bridge, 1240 feet; height of floor above water, 192 feet; width of floorway, 46 feet.

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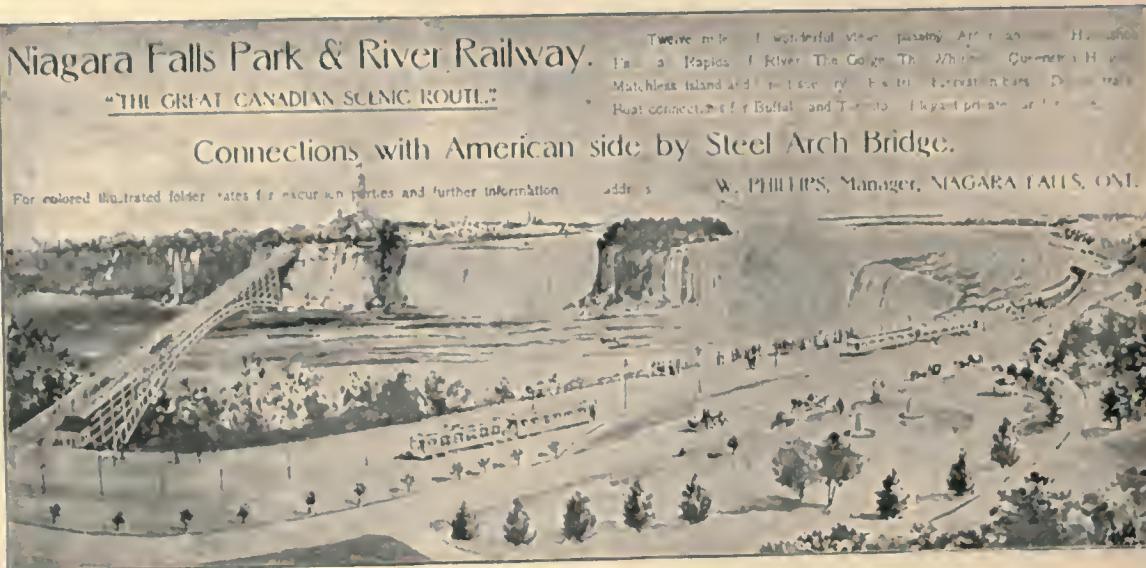
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W. PHILLIPS, Manager.



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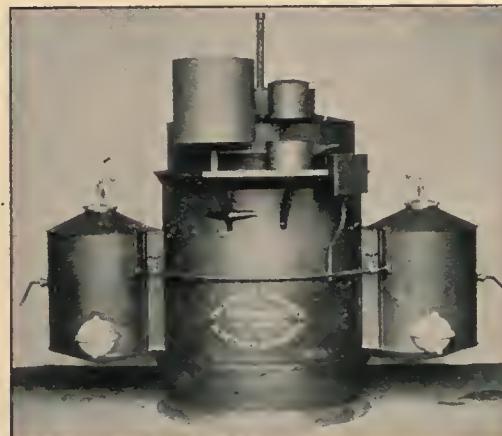
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